

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /106 W
-----039109 161614Z /50

R 160931Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4559
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, SS, MO, OAU
SUBJ: GOM ATTENDING OAU MINISTERIALS

REF: A) RABAT 0364 (NOTAL), B) LIBREVILLE 0291 (NOTAL)

1. MFA SECSTATE ABDERRAHMANE BADDAAOU IS CURRENTLY HEADING GOM DELEGATION TO TRIPOLI MEETING OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OAU FONMIN'S MEETING.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL TASK OF DEFENDING THE GOM'S SAHARA POSITION, THE DELEGATION WILL BE FOCUSSED ON A NUMBER OF RELATED QUESTIONS. THE STATUS OF THE POLISARIO DELEGATION AT BOTH SESSIONS WILL PREOCCUPY THE MOROCCANS. THE GOM DELEGATION, AS IT DID IN LIBREVILLE LAST JULY, WILL ALSO PROBABLY DEFEND THE SPANISH
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AGAINST ANY ALGERIAN EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE CANARY ISLANDS QUESTION IN THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS. MORROCCAN STRATEGY IN PAST LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS HAS BEEN TO STICK TO THE HIGH ROAD OF AFRICAN POLITICS, FOCUSSED ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BADDAAOU IN HIS OPENING REMARKS FOLLOWED THIS TACK.

3. THE MAJOR TACTICAL FOCUS, HOWEVER, IS LIABLE TO BE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED MARCH 24-30 SPECIAL SUMMIT ON THE SAHARA IN LIBREVILLE. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL MOROCCAN DECLARATION ON THE SUMMIT SINCE JANUARY 19, WHEN THE MININFO AGREED TO MOROCCO'S PARTICIPATION (REFTEL A). HOWEVER, STRATEGY QUESTIONS REMAINING INVOLVE (A) FINANCING, (B) THE MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN DEMAND FOR A QUORUM OF 26 CHIEFS OF STATE, AND (C) ATTENDANCE BY SAHARANS. ALTHOUGH THE GOM IS BEING OFFICIALLY SILENT ON THESE MATTERS, AFP FEBRUARY 11 QUOTED "INFORMED SOURCES" IN RABAT AS STATING THAT ONLY ALGERIA, MAURITANIA, ZAIRE, AND MOROCCO HAD AGREED TO THE SUMMIT (THIS APPEARS TO CONFLICT WITH REFTEL B, IN WHICH BONGO CLAIMED 28 TAKERS). IN FEBRUARY 15 EDITORIAL, THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ORGAN AL-ANBA REAFFIRMED THE DEMAND FOR A HIGH-LEVEL QUORUM, RAISED THE ISSUE OF POLISARIO BY WARNING THAT ANY ALGERIAN ATTEMPT TO FORCE PARTICIPATION OF POLISARIO "WILL MEAN THE FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE" AND MAINTAINED THAT ALL OAU MEMBERS MUST SHARE THE CONFERENCE'S EXPENSES. FINALLY, IT REPEATED CONDITION THAT AGENDA MUST DEAL WITH "ALGERIAN AGGRESSION" (I.E., AS OPPOSED TO SAHARA SOVEREIGNTY).

4. MEANWHILE, GOM CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUMMIT HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY TAKEN PLACE DURING RECENT VISITS TO RABAT OF SADAT, MOBUTU, AND OULD DADDAH.

5. COMMENT. VIEWED FROM RABAT, WHETHER THE MARCH SUMMIT WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE REMAINS QUESTIONABLE. THE GOM IS PLAYING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSE HAND AND IS ATTEMPTING TO APPEAR POSITIVE, BUT IF PRE-SUMMIT SIGNALS DO NOT POINT TO GAINS FOR THE MOROCCAN CAUSE, ONE OF THE MANY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES COULD WELL BE SEIZED UPON TO BLOCK THE CONFERENCE.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT00968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-1123
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780246/aaaabnfm.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ee7447d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 RABAT 364, 78 LIBREVILLE 291
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3571966
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM ATTENDING OAU MINISTERIALS
TAGS: PBOR, SS, MO, WI, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ee7447d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014